(c) As per Central Electricity Authority there are 107 un-electrified villages as on 31st October, 2002.

(d) As agreed to in the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 3rd March, 2001, Government of Himachal Pradesh would be completing electrification of all villages by 2007 and coverage of all households by 2012. Government of India has taken the following initiatives to accelerate the pace of rural electrification which the State Government of Himachal Pradesh can avail of:

Rural Electrification is now treated as a Basic Minimum Service and has been included under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) from the year 2001-02. State has been given the discretion to allocate funds on priority for rural electrification.

Budgetary allocation under MNP for rural electrification has been enhanced during the year 2002-03.

States can also access funds from Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) and Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for the programme.

REC have formulated new schemes for electrification of dalit bastis and hamlets at lower rate of interest.

First batch of CEAs operating under BEE

2944. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is likely to have the first batch of Certified Energy Auditors (CEAs) operating under the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) by the year 2003;

(b) whether this scheme is designed to reduce/eliminate waste in electricity, especially in large industries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the expected percentage of saving in consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The scheme regarding conduct of energy audit by accredited energy auditors is designed to reduce wasteful use of both

thermal and electrical energy. The objective of the energy audit is to verify, monitor and analyze the use of energy including submittion of technical reports containing recommendations for improving energy efficiency with cost benefit analysis and action plan to reduce energy consumption. The scheme, *inter alia*, provides that the Central Government in consultation with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency direct energy intensive industries specified in the Schedule of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 and notified designated consumers to get energy audit conducted by an accredited energy auditor in such manner and such interval of time as may be specified. Depending upon the availability of accredited energy auditors in the country, the Central Government proposes to introduce the scheme in phases. Initially the scheme is proposed to be introduced in Cement, Pulp & Paper, Textile, Fertilizer, Aluminum; Chlor Alkali industries and in Commercial Buildings & Establishments.

The anticipated annual savings after 5 years of the introduction of the scheme by implementation of the recommendations of the accredited energy auditors is likely to be 1200 MW of electric power, 15 million tones of coal and 2 million tones of furnace oil.

NTPC units in Chhattisgarh

†2945. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units of NTPC operating in Chhattisgarh;

(b) the production capacity thereof;

(c) the number of new projects planned to be set-up; and

(d) the details of the action being taken for the setting up of Sipat Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) One Power Station has been set up at Korba in Chhattisgarh by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) which is in operation with generating capacity of 2100MW (3x200MW+3x500MW).

(c) The following projects have been planned to be taken up by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in Chhattisgarh:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.